CARIBBEAN NEWS 6d.

April-May 1956

FEDERATION TALKS END WITH POOR RESULTS

THE greatly heralded Conference on Caribbean Federation has ended on a note of anti-climax. Not that great things were expected of it, as its scope was limited beforehand to acceptance in its main points to the Rance proposals which had been accepted in 1953.

Federal elections are being planned for 1958 and the British Government, which held the reins at the Conference, had its way by emphasizing the need for "small beginnings."

Commissions are being set up to look into Trade in the area, and federal elections.

One of the praiseworthy decisions emerging from the Conference was that to declare February 23rd an annual national holiday for the British-ruled Caribbean. This should be of advantage in instilling in the minds of West Indians the unity of Jamaicans, Guianese, Vincentians, Trinidadians, Barbadians, and other people of the Caribbean.

Full reports are not yet available, for the sessions were held in secret, but hints of squabbles over the Capital and other matters have been rumoured.

It was also reported that Mr. Manley, of Jamaica, pressed for greater measures of independence for the Federation, but apparently has not been very successful.

'Jamaica Times' Attacks

From DUDLEY MITCHELL

Kingston: 3/56: The weekly newspaper here with the largest circulation, the "Jamaica Times" has viciously attacked the people, civil liberties and above all the Peoples' Freedom Movement.

The Editorial of March 10th, under the caption "Freedom Movement" called for the suppression of the PFM on the grounds that they are a 'known communist organisation,' and also opposed to the type of federation which the British Government is so anxious to force upon the West Indian people in the interest of imperialism. The Editor claimed that the now famous article the GREAT AUCTION SALE which appeared in 'Freedom Newsletter' on March 2nd, which is being continued, was telling the people that the "London Federation Conference was a sell out."

The PFM is supporting a number of progressive candidates in the coming Municipal and Parochial elections and therefore it is appropriate to re-state the policy of the Movement, not only in respect of federation but the social and economic welfare of the island.

ANTI-FOREIGN RULE

The policy of the PFM has always been and remains opposed to the type of federation that Manley and the Peoples' National Party accepted in London at the bidding of the Colonial Office. Manley himself was not carrying out his election promise when he accepted a Crown colony Federation without Dominion status. In the PNP 'Plan for Progress', it is clearly stated that the Party's support for federation was only WITH dominion status. How now this sudden change?

The Editor of course did not explain what was responsible for this new attitude of the PNP towards the Colonal Office sponsored Federation.

NO DEMAND WAS PUT FORWARD BY THE JAMAICAN DELEGATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT AT THE CONFERENCE.

The Peoples' Freedom Movement demands *full self-*

continued on page 2

Mr. Norman Manley (centre) led Jamaica's delegation at the London Conference

Photo by Rudy David

Dominica has doubts on economic benefits

By D. JOSEPH, Secretary, Dominica Trade Union

THE matter of Federal Government having been already decided for implementation, we as labour representatives can just express our opinion.

With the principle of federation I am totally in favour. To federate is to combine or to form many into one, which is basically the motto of our organisation. In this particular instance, however, one has to examine critically the advantages and disadvantages if any.

One factor that has to be taken into account is 'FRATERNITY'. There must exist that fraternal spirit among the authoritative parties in the territories concerned which will create closer association in reality.

Further to this, there need be incorporation of views, that is, the invitation and acceptance of suggestions from the rank and file by the authorities, from which the inhabitants of the respective territories could gauge the results.

Another factor is' UNIFORMITY'. This signifies the necessity for planning in advance to prove how much the various territories can cope together, and the unanimity to bring about the general development of the area. Had this been done, a profitable end would have already been confidently anticipated.

Having made those general statements, I have a feeling that Federation, as concived of at present, would not benefit us economically.

There exists the danger that the smaller and more underdeveloped islands would suffer at the expense of the

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Planned Production Essential

— CHEDDI JAGAN

TEN million dollars for Federal Headquarters, about $10 million for an annual budget, $40,800 per annum for the Governor General, $13,440 for the Prime Minister and at least $9,600 for each member of the Federal Legislature—quite a formidable financial commitment.

As expected, nothing substantially different from the Rance Proposals emerged at the end of the London talks in February. More or less the same influences (personnel, ideology) operates now as in 1948.

By postponing the Trinidad elections the Colonial

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TRINIDAD LOCAL ELECTIONS

THE results of the County Council elections on February 20 showed that over 70 per cent. of the elctorate went to the polls. Most candidates were supported by possible contestants for legislative Council general elections which are likely to be held in September, 1956. Only 47 per cent. of the electorate voted in the last elections.

Most of the candidates were Independents. The party, led by Dr. Williams, the Peoples' National Movement, decided not to participate in the County Council elections and expelled two members, one a member of its general Council who defied the decision. The POPPG (Conservative) officially supported seven candidates and won three seats. The Butler Party candidates are not properly known officially, but in the oil belt one of their candidates topped the poll overall with over 6,000 votes. That candidate is likely to fight Hon. Ajodasingh in the elections. He polled more votes than Ajodasingh polled in the 1950 elections.

Hon Bhadase Maraj who supported a few (number not known) candidates originally stated that he expected "90 per cent. success". But now states he gained "50 per cent. success." It is perhaps more correct to state that he gained about 40 per cent. Some of the people he claimed to support have disclaimed all knowledge of this.

The W.I.I.P.-U.L.T.A. candidates were four and two party supported candidates. Of the four candidates three lost their deposits. The other came 4th in his ward. One Party supported candidate in Charma Ward won his seat and the other came third.

For the most part the W.I.I.P-U.L.T.A. candidates were hampered by lack of finance, transportation. Of the votes won in three constituencies where candidates lost there were no cars available to take voters to polls on polling day. Voting was determined largely by a combination of fiancial and racial considerations. County Council elections are held on the basis of Universal adult suffrage.

While the elections cannot properly indicate how the wind is blowing for the general elections owing to the fact that the PNM did not participate and Butler was not personally present to campaign on behalf of candidates, indications are that Dr. Williams should win the largest group of seats followed by Maraj, who intends to launch his party to be called the Peoples Democratic Party, and Butler who ought to win a few seats. The chances of the West Indian Independence Party, Independent Labour Party and Trinidad Labour Party appear very slim. The I.L.P. is now virtually dead and it is rumoured that the T.U.C. leadership intend to launch a new party based on the T.U.C.

★ EDITORIAL ★

West Indians as Trade Unionists

ALMOST every week more of our fellow West Indians are arriving in Britain in search of jobs. To most of them, they face a strange, new environment, not only with respect to climate, but also to a certain extent customs manners and food.

As a Guianese who had arrived three months ago put it, "I've learned to drink just tea by itself now." A very small point, perhaps, but shows how our people are adapting themselves to their new surroundings; and it is well to know how easily West Indians adapt themselves in Britain—even the climate.

There is, however, one matter that merits serious consideration, and that is how we fit ourselves in with the British Labour movement. This includes membership in trade unions, relations with work-mates, and so on.

This paper has always urged West Indians to join their trade unions. Why is this such an important matter?

Every West Indian arriving in Britain will sooner or later become aware of the colour bar, when he looks for work or a place to live, and may even find prejudice among some of his white work-mates.

Good protection

Trade union membership is a good protection against victimisation, and at the same time it is an indication to white workers that coloured workers are not prepared to undercut their rates with cheap labour—thus helping to break down prejudice.

But the colour bar is not the only or main reason for being good active trade unionists. For, the principles and practices of trade unionism have grown up, been brought into being by the working class of every country to defend their interests against exploitation by the bosses.

In Britain, because of the longer period of historical development, trade unionism is more developed than in the West Indies.

It is therefore essential that we make an effort to learn more about our union and its activities, once we have joined, and attend union meetings regularly.

Some workers feel that by merely joining a union and paying dues, that is all. But it is indeed only the bare minimum, and West Indians have an interest in taking pride in attending union meetings and taking part in discussions whenever possible.

Build confidence

Speakers from the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) have during the past year been giving talks to various trade union branches—railway, engineering, etc., —on the subject of coloured workers in Britain.

British trade unionists frequently ask why their West Indian brothers do not come along to the meetings, and suggest that this is one of the reasons why the best feelings of friendship and confidence are sometimes not built up.

It can be seen therefore that West Indians have a job to do, of consciously striving to build confidence with their white brothers through their actions and by mixing with the white workers whenever possible.

Let is not be said, as is frequently said now, that coloured workers separate themselves from their work-mates and erect a colour bar in reverse.

Patient explanation

Through several generations of propaganda, many British people have accepted the ruling class lies about coloured people, and are consequently prejudiced.

It is quite possible to destroy this prejudice, but it will not come automatically. Much will depend on how we West Indians conduct ourselves in the labour movement and generally.

We have to be patient in explaining to the British worker about ourselves and backward conditions in our exploited country. Most of this he does not know, and who is going to enlighten him if we don't.

An English worker, a trade unionist himself, has given his views in a letter published on this page.

We want to hear from readers their own experiences and ideas which will help in building a strong bridge between black and white.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU.

Barbadians Want Civil Rights Guarantee

From Carlton Gill,
Secretary, Caribbean People,s Alliance

WE in Barbados are opposed to "Federation at any price." We need not only Federation, but we need the right to determine our own future.

Just to be one big Federated Crown Colony is no advantage to us but to the Imperialists.

1. Many attacks are being made upon the liberties of our people, and I think it very farcical for some of our so-called leaders to be demanding Federation without a Guarantee of Protection for Civic Rights and Liberties.

Mail is tampered with, even confiscated, and other things too numerous to mention go on down here and yet people are expected to shout themselves hoarse in honour of a system that deprives them of their freedom and strangles their growth both economically and politically.

Constitutional safeguards

In an Open Letter to Conference Delegates I have set out some of the points that we wanted to see in the Federation. These provisions were:

1. That the Federal Constitution should as part of its Constitutional Conventions have the right of recall of a member or members of the Federal House of Representatives, particularly in order to guarantee respect for the peoples' mandate.
2. That the Federal Constitution should have the right on the part of the constituent units of the Federation, to secede therefrom.
3. That the Federal Constitution should provide Constitutional Guarantees for the protection of minority and other Cultural interests.
4. That Complete Freedom of Movement be guaranteed to all people born and residing in these parts.
5. That the Conference reject the Principle of Dual Ministries as well as the right of persons to be members at the same time of both Local and Fedeal Legislatures.
6. That the Federal Constitution should provide for the exclusive right of the Federation to amend its Constitution.
7. That the Federal acceptance of any Federal Constitution should be submitted to the people by way of a Referendum.

This open letter was sent to the press, but so far only TRUTH, a weekly newspaper, has printed it. The big papers often try to ignore us by not mentioning us or our stand on any question.

The white people in Barbados are playing a funny game. They are fundamentally opposed to Federation because they are afraid of being swamped as a racial minority. Yet Cuke, their mouthpiece, is one of Barbados' delegates at the London Conference.

Cuke is a nominated member and President of the Legislative Council—the local 'House of Lords'.

Another tactic is for politicians to ignore the main points of Federation, while only glittering before the peoples' eyes the chance of Barbados becoming the Federal capital. This is another colonial trick to make you catch at the shadow while losing the substance.

And for true West Indians the Substance of Federation will be internal self-government for all the Federal units with the right of the Federation to become a free and independent nation.

JAMAICA TIMES

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government NOW for Jamaica, and the other West Indian territories with the people to decide by referendum, if and how we federate! This is emphasised as the only sensible and democratic form of federation. It is strange that for being consistent the TIMES advocates the suppression of the movement.

The 'Times' stated that the PFM were campaigning without interference, but this is not altogether true. The PFM argue from their platforms that where there is no struggle there is no progress, and despite the many barriers that have been put in their way by the enemies of the people, the Mobement will continue to lead the of the people to national independence and a better way of life.

It is remarkable that the Jamaica Times has now realised that the PEOPLES' FREEDOM MOVEMENT is under trained and intelligent leadership This is what the PFM have themselves been telling the whole country since formation on May 1st, 1955.

The Movement is national in character, uniting not only communists, but all elements in the country opposed to imperialist robbery and exploitation of our country. On this issue, they declare that there will be no compromise, whether the JAMAICA TIMES or any other capitalist organ attack them for being consistent.

Latest: The PNP won majority in parochial elections.

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Our victims within our industry

POST-BOX

Dear Editor:

The following comments upon the entry of West Indians to the industrial life of this country are not entirely personal but reflect opinions gleaned from contacts with a number of fellow workers.

The most common reaction from such contacts was "That provided the West Indians do not put an Englishman out of a job, well, it's alright for them to work here."

The next person would go a little further and say: "That provided it does not prejudice our bargaining power with the employers for better rates and conditions well, it's alright for them to come here."

Some, influenced perhaps, by a bad type or indeed by complete ignorance say they should be sent home.

A few, however, who mainly aspire for Socialism see the issue as a much larger one than as mentioned above.

They believe that socialism introduced to this country is an answer, as such should support all workers in all parts of the British Empire in organising Trade Unions and political parties in order to further their interests, and support the right of all peoples to self determination, including the right to choose complete separation from the Empire.

These aims which were a resolve of the 1925 Trade Union Congress, now find little expression from the present leaders of the British workers Parliament.

However, if facts of colonial exploitation can reach the workers, no doubt, as in 1925, right will find support and with the increased strength now of our own labour movement coupled with the progress made by many within the colonies the Goal of Self-determination and planning in the interest of those within their own land will be won.

At present for practical purposes it is essential that those West Indians working within our industries should endeavour to be of exemplary character, not only at work but in recreational and cultural activities too.

This will enable contact with those workers who read only reactionary organs or who possess somewhat illusionary views of the reason for our colonial brothers coming here.

From these contacts could develop the ingredients to defeat suppression within the colonies and then the West Indian in Britain or the Briton in the West Indies will be a fraternal and helpful exchange between workers.

Such too will mean that world peace will be a reality with the world's workers exchanging ideas, etc. to make it a much happier and cultured place.

PERCY MAY

(Electrician, South Harrow E.T.U.)

From time to time we propose to discuss the novels and books dealing witth the Caribbean scene published during the last ten years. We begin with two novels on Trinidad.

Crown Jewel

by RALPH DE BOISSIERE

IT is not intended to give here a detailed, critical analysis of Ralph de Boissiere's novel, Crown Jewel, though it is a work which merits such treatment. What is mainly intended here is to bring it to the notice of those who have not read it, and if possible to encourage others who have to read it again.

A novel about Trinidad life during the 1930s, is deals with, among other things, the great strike and unrest of 1937 which, beginning among the oil-workers of Fyzabad (to whom the book is partly dedicated), soon became island wide and later spread to other islands of the Caribbean. As a novel depicting the Trinidad scene in all its complexity it is outstanding; for it shows the people striving to organise, to unite in order to lift themselves out of the swamp in which years of exploitation have kept them, and what is more, confident that they can do so.

The author does not write "dispassionately" or "with detachment" of his Trinidad and its people as is the fashion with some authors from the Caribbean. Nor does he sneer at and look down his nose at the people and things Trinidadian. He writes with respect and admiration for the peoples' efforts, with genuine feeling, deep understanding, honesty, pride and hope in his people and country.

★

This intelligent outlook, his love for and knowledge of his native land enable him to face up boldly, fearlessly to the problems of Trinidad and to believe in the possibility of their solution Thus, his scenes and characters are powerfully and convincingly drawn. His Cassie Walcott, the servant girl is unforgetable. Le Maitre, the working class leader, though he could have been a better developed character, is convincing.

The pompous English Judge Osborne, the influential English Oilfields and Sugar Estates managers, the self seeking dtmagogic politician, Joe Elias, the courageous trade unionist Clem Payne and others are all living characters whose counterparts in the everyday Trinidad scene we know well.

CROWN JEWEL is not faultless, but is very satisfying and stimulating and for being so it is unique among novels portraying Trinidad life. We are indeed deeply grateful to Ralph de Boissiere for having given it to us.

(Published in Australia, copies are available at Collets, Ltd., 66, Charing Cross Road, W.C.2).

DAVE

A Brighter Sun

By Samuel Selvon

WE have plodded wearily through Mr. Samuel Selvon's "A Brighter Sun". On several occasions we were on the point of giving up, but persevered hoping against hope that three or four pages further on our patience would have been rewarded. But such was not to be our luck.

The theme of this novel concerns Tiger, a Trinidadian of East Indian descent, a peasant, eking a living from a small garden in Barataria. He has a strong desire to learn to read and write, and to get on in the world and make money. His adventures make up roughly half the book; the other half is occupied with the story of the building of the Churchill - Roosevelt highway, and the sundry adventures of various other characters, Negro and of East Indian descent.

On the face of it fascinating material to turn into a highly readable, honest and entertaining piece of work.

But look what Selvon makes of it.

His hero, Tiger, is a social climber, with an outsize respect for North Americans and Englishmen. He has no respect for his own Indian customs when those customs conflict with his social ambitions. One of his greatest desires is achieved when he plays host to two North Americans working on the Churchill-Roosevelt highway.

★

Incidentally, these U.S. engineers contemptuously refer to him as "boy" and he addresses them as "Chief."

Most of his other characters are debased, demoralised and shiftless. Even then they are by no means typical of the sub-class they are ignorantly purported to represent.

For example, we learn with surprise that the women of Barataria were all crazy over the Yanks, and anxious to go to bed with them. A private school teacher spends her spare time soliciting G.I.s.

As far as form and style are concerned, both are strangers to Mr. Selvon. His phrasing is atrocious. His punctuation indifferent. The writing thin, and careless. Nearly every chapter begins in the same fashion. He relates a number of trivial events totally usconnected with the story and then goes on to superimpose the rest of this chapter on to this background.

★

He devotes the whole of chapter four to one minor character, the Chinese shopkeeper, Tall Boy. We get in great detail flashbacks in the life of this character, and a description of San Fernando which has absolutely no bearing on the story. For the rest of the novel, Tall Boy only appears when he sells some small articles to Tiger's wife, Urmilla.

This novel has no climax, nor is there any build up to a climatic scene. It is a bad novel. The only point under discussion is how bad. It is a disgusting novel, a slanderous attrack on our peasantry, our women folk, and our progressive movement and elected institutions.

But the very yretchedness of the novel gives us heart. Such an untalented work will never deceive anyone in our country.

After all, no Trinidadian could stand being called "native" by a man who is himself a "native."

We hope Mr. Selvon's next novel is better and shall examine it later.

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Theatre

The Wit of Jean-Paul Sartre

UNITY THEATRE (Goldington Strret, N.W.1) is still performing to packed houses its presentation of "NEKRASSOV" by Jean Paul Sartre, one of France's leading playwrights and an active member of the World Peace Movement.

The play is about a small town crook, who fleeing from the police, attempts to drown himself in the Seine, but is fished out by a down-and-out couple. Chance later throws him Sibelot, a journalist who is in danger of losing his job, having run out of ideas for anti-Soviet stories.

The clever crook poses as Nekrassov, a high official of the Soviet Government whom rumour has it, has fled to the West. The crook thus escapes the police and the despairing journalist has his anti-Soviet stories made to order.

The dirty little plot fails, but only after Sartre shows what dupes a credulous public accustomed to believing even the most baseless anti-Soviet stories can be, and how shameless and unscrupulous the press lords are. The dialogue sparkles with Sartre's brilliant, incisive wit. The theatregoer will be doing himself a great injustice if he fails to see Unity's excellent performance.

DAVE

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

from page 1

Office made certain that the same reactionary clique was represented.

Mr. Manley, shrewd politician that he is, recognising the temper of the people, has called for a federal constitution more nearly resembling a self-governing constitution.

1956 is a far way from 1947 when Manley as Vice-President, and Grantley Adams as President of the Caribbean Labour Congress, were demanding "Federation with Dominion status and internal self-government for each unit."

The imperialists carefully noted the successful pressure exerted by Mr. Manley on the Jamaica T.U.C., forcing the

CHEDDI JAGAN
Leader of P P P Guiana

latter to withdraw from the W.F.T.U. (after the formation of I.C.F.T.U.) and the subsequent expulsion of the so-called 'Reds' from the Peoples' National Party, not to mention his congratulations to the British Government for the destruction of the P.P.P. Government in British Guiana.

Official attitude in British Guiana, no doubt reflecting Colonial Office views, can be cited as illustrating Manley's political somersaulting.

Up to 1949, when the PNP of Jamacia was the leader and guide of the progressive political movements in the Caribbean, Guianese officialdom, supported by the Chamber of Commerce and King Sugar, *was opposed to federation.*

These same interests, noting the changed Manley and the fact that Manley and Adams will undoubtedly emerge as leaders of the Federation, are today the most active supporters of Guianese participation in the Caribbean Federation.

Unbalanced Economy

Let us now look at the economic side. Dr. Daniel Newmark, F.A.O. Agricultural Economist, writing in 1950 on "The Importance of Agriculture in Caribbean Economy with Reference to the World Market" said:

'One of the main characteristics of the territorial export trade in the Caribbean is its dependence on a small number of products, a dependence typical of economically under-developed areas, while the import requirements of each territory are characterised by a very wide range of foodstuffs, raw materials and manufactured articles.'

Dr. Newmark then went on to suggest that to overcome these short-comings there should be overall planned production for the whole area, with specialisation in each territory. He cited Grenada:

"Grenada is a case in point. The area under sugar in Grenada amounts to 308 acres (125 hectares) with an average production of 17.21 tons of cane per acre. It is surprising that Grenada should insist on growing its own sugar under protection (against imports from other West Indian territories and at the expense of the consumer and taxpayer as it were) when it can import sugar more cheaply from Barbados, St. Lucia or Trinidad. Whatever were the reasons in the past for supporting sugar production in Grenada, there is very little economic justification now for maintaining this industry at the expense of the consumer and taxpayer. Grenada could utilise its acres at present under sugar for growing more cocoa or nutmegs, or for growing fodder crops for livestock."

He continues:

"In many cases (as in Martinique and Guadeloupe) the cultivation of bananas and pineapples has proved a solution. A possible solution to the hillside lands, i.e., the marginal sugar cane lands, has been found in the planting of permanent tree crops, such as cocoa, coconuts and nutmegs. Some of the tree crops could be combinerd with grazing and/or cultivated fodder crops."

Dr. Newmark's report was not very well received by sugar interests who want the maintenance of the status quo.

Prospects not Bright

Any forecast of economic prospects will therefore have to take into consideration the will of the federal leaders and the political limitations within which they will have to function.

With the political somersaulting of Manley and Adams, and the fact that the Colonial Office and the Sugar Lords are prepared to let them rule, it would appear that the economic prospects of the Federation are not very bright.

STUDENTS URGE STRONG GOVERNMENT

WEST INDIAN students took a bold step on the eve of Federation talks. At a meeting held at their Student Centre in London to which delegates to the talks were specially invited, they presented their views on Federation in no uncertain manner.

In the words of the President of the Student body it was not often that an opportunity arose for leaders to sit at the feet of students. And the students surely took advantage of the opportunity.

After pointing out that the student body itself was an experiment in Federation, since it embraced students from most of the countries of the Caribbean, they went on to urge the delegates to press for strong Federal Government.

The students, however, made it clear that they regretted certain aspects of the Federation proposals. They could not, for instance, see the need for super checks and balances for which the nominated State Council was envisaged, while there was to be a nominated Senate of 19 members and the Governor General possessed absolute powers.

They thought the only way to make Federation a reality despite its emasculated form was full, unlimited powers to the Federal Government.

TRINIDAD TUC AGAINST CROWN COLONY STATUS FOR FEDERATION

THE TUC (Trinidad) protested strongly to Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lennox Boyd, against what is described as the Crown Colony status of the proposed Federation. This they thought was not in keeping with the aspirations of the working people of Trinidad.

The TUC also urged that in view of Trinidad's strong financial position steps be taken to implement a Social Insurance scheme on the lines of that operative in the United Kingdom.

JAMAICA

BIG BUSINESS OPPOSE BRITISH PLAN

THE Daily Gleaner, organ of Big Business, has come out strongly against the British-imposed Federation.

And the Gleaner writers have had a field day attacking the Caribbean delegates to the Conference. There was no one at Lancaster House to speak for the West Indies, lamented the Gleaner. The delegates were more concerned with flattering Lennox Boyd than anything else.

Another columnist wrote scathingly of how the delegates spent their time running from hotel bedroom to hotel bedroom, discussing the all imporant subject of the site of the Federal capital, and wringing their hands in ismay at some imagined difficulty.

Would the value of land round and about the Federal capital rise in value? Would they get a sufficiently big loan from the British Government?

The Gleaner contrasted this schoolboyish behaviour with the statesmanlike attitude of the Malayan delegates at the recent conference in London.

One of the Gleaner editorials put the cse bluntly. We are for Federation, writes the Gleaner in effect. But not Fderation at any price. Our job is to see that Jamaica is developed economically and socially and Federation is a means to that end.

But this British-imposed Federation does not benefit Jamaica. Under it we cannot work out our national destiny. Under it, we fear, Jamaica may find herself dictated to by a coalition of the smaller islands.

Federation, or rather, the Super Crown Colony which the British are creating in the Caribbean would not permit Jamaica to develop her own resources, and quite definitely is inimical to her national interests.

A POISONOUS BILL

RECENTLY a bill entitled "The undesirable publications (Prohibition of Importation) Ordinance" was introduced into the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago. In introducing it, the Attorney General stated, in very modest terms, the Government's reason for the Bill.

"The existing law relating to the prohibition of importation of publications which it is not in the public interest to allow to be imported into the Colony is very limited in scope. It gives the Governor absolutes, power to prohibit the importation of anything which comes under publications as described in the Bill.

In the words of the Bill publication includes all written or printed matter. Anything whether of a nature similar to written or printed matter, or not, containing any visible representation capable of suggesting words or ideas by its form or shape, or in any other manner.

Further Sec. 3 of the bill states: "If an order made under the provisions of Sub. sec. 1 of this section specifies by name a publication which is a periodical publication, such order shall, unless a contrary intention be expressed therein, have effect. (a) not only with respect to all issues of such publication published before the date of the order but also with respect to all issues of such publication published on or after such date, and (b) not only with respect to any publication under that name but also with respect to any publication published under any other name or without a name if the publishing thereof is or may reasonably be regarded as being in any respect in continuation of or in substitution for, the publishing of the publication named in the order."

Crude Censorship

Under the guise of preventing the importation of 'undesirable' publications, the Bill is in fact a crude attempt to impose a general censorship on what people may read, and the power to do this rests in the hands of the governor. This surely is a denial of a fundamental human right, the right to acquire information. This bill therefore, must be recognised for what it is, an attempt to isolate the people of Trinidad and Tobago from the incidents taking place throughout the world, and especially the anti-colonial struggle which is being waged with such determination throughout the world at the present time.

It is worth noting that this paper, Caribbean News, harmless as it is, has been banned outright by the Colonial administrators there. And should this bill become law and we were to print or publish a popular edition of the Holy Bible, that too would be banned. The CIC is therefore more than justified in submitting a strong resolution of this bill to the National Council of Civil Liberties for discussion at its Annual Conference. All decent, honest people should protest most vigorously to the British Government against the bill.

Guiana Dictators Give Blessing To Co-op

CONTINUING its efforts to win the faith of the Guianese people, the Government Dictatorship of Guiana recently gave its blessing to the Co-operative movement. Governor Renison pointed out that his 'government' was quite keen on the development of Agricultural Co-operatives. And in his own words there are 515 Co-ops with a membership of over 20,000 and with assets of over 400,000 dollars (B.W.I.).

In the C.L.C.'s survey "Sugar, the Story of a Colony" Booker Bros., MacConnell and Co., Davson and Co., and Demerara Co., Ltd., are stated as owning 34,519 acres but have at their disposal 63,052 acres.

Governor Renison however, tells the Guianese people that more and more Co-ops are needed, but as to how they are to get hold of the lands held by the above mentioned companies they are not told.

No, Governor Renison, only the legally elected representatives of the Guianese people would tell them that. And we are sure there are many co-operators who would tell you to reinstate the Elected Government of Guiana.

Whither Trinidad's New Party

THE People's National Movement, organised and led by Dr. Williams is expected to do well in the coming elections.

The Party has come out against the British imposed Federation. And in domestic affairs it has demanded industrialisation and more jobs for the unemployed.

But the party is under serious attack on the grounds that its programme is demagogic and its leading personalities are reactionaries, who use radical and nationalist phrases in order to deceive the massies.

Clarion, a Labour organ, wrote in a recent issue of what it described as Eric Williams' People's National Movement . . . "

"The Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd., which supports the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and the Party of Political Progress Groups, has now thrown in its lot with Eric Williams' People's National Mobement . . . "

Dr. Williams had "tried to sell the reactionary London proposals" up to the time of his departure from the Caribbean Commission."

"Williams was a reactionary up to yesterday, and . . . it is only since he has been thrown out of the Caribbean Commission that he has overnight become the Radical he wished people to believe that he is."

"So it is not at all surprising that the Chairman of Williams' Party is a member of the Senior Staff of the T.L.L."

The chairman in question is cricketer Leary Constantine.

Barbados Hurricane Victims

The Chief Secretary told the Legislative Council recently that up to January 4th, a total of 11,526 houses damaged by the hurricane had been repaired. But several thousand more houses remained to be repaired.

Banana Price Drop

The price of Jamaican bananas has fallen again. The 'Greenboat" price has dropped by 48 dols. (£10). Last April the "Greenboat" price was 386.40 dols. (£80 10s.). The price today is 290.40 dols. (£60 10s.).

St. Vincent workers shut down sugar industry

ALL the North Windward areas are out on total strike (writes E. T. Joshua) for the acknowledgment of trade union rights, trade union representation, production of the Malone Report, and for higher wages.

Sunday, March 11th: The factory workers of Mt. Bentinck joined the cane cutters and the whole Tory-owned industry went on total strike until the demands are met.

In the area of Orange Hill Estates Ltd., the workers struck for higher wages and the wheels of this industry came to a standstill on 5th March.

Other estates affected are Mt. William owned by William Hadley Gorse, and Calonarie, owned by a Portuguese called Alban Da Santos, the Third Nominated Member of the Legislative Council.

The strikes are developing to island-wide proportions in all work and trade. Even the teachers and other skilled workers are preparing a showdown.

Immigrants complain of bad treatment

WHEN a party of immigrants from Trinidad and some of the other Caribbean countries arrived at Victoria Station they protested strongly about the manner in which they were treated while in transit. The ship involved was the T.U. Lucania, an Italian boat and its agents in Trinidad, the Atlas Shipping Co.

The food was, in the words of most of the immigrants, horrible even for dogs. The berths were crowded, and washing facilities poor.

On arriving at Genoa their baggage was taken from them and they were herded into poorly heated trains and sped across the European continent, to find, on arriving at Victoria, that they could not recover their baggage under 72 hours. For all this inconvenience they had to pay some £66 to the shipping company.

A written protest, signed by some of the immigrants was handed to British Council officials on the spot.

It was unfortunate however, that this protest did not state what was uppermost in the minds of many of the immigrants namely that if the British were to end the hated system of colonialism, withdraw their officials from these countries, they would not have been arriving on these shores on that cold March evening.

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Malayan Constitution Meets Disapproval

GROWING opposition to the acceptance by Tengku Rahman, newly-elected Malayan Chief Minister of the British government's offer of a new constitution is gaining momentum in that stronghold of British Imperialism.

The Malayan Labour Party has challenged the validity of Tengku Rahman's claim of having gained control over internal security whilst the British Director of Operations remained in operational command. The Executive Committee of the Selangor state branch of the Labour Party issued a statement on February 18, which among other points, opposed the Conference decision to involve Malaya in SEATO, the stationing of any foreign troops on Malayan soil, the continued subjection of Malaya's foreign policy to that of a foreign power, and the entrusting of the question of Malaya's independence to a constitutional commission appointed by foreigners.

INDEPENDENCE—NOT REAL

The General Secretary of the Malayan Trade Union Council, Mr. Thaver, criticised the London Conference for failing to bring the eight year war to an end. He urged that the war should be peacefully settled forthwith, and in order that this could be achieved, he said, legal recognition should be accorded to the Malayan Communist Party.

A newly foremed movement, the People's Party (Partai Ra'ayaat) stated that so long as foreign troops remained on Malayan soil any talk of 'independence' could not be real.

SUPPORT LACKING

Meanwhile in his tour of the country Tengku Rahman is finding support lacking in his "all out mobilisation against the Communists" The fact that 700 tons of bombs were dropped in one raid the day the delegation returned to Malaya has considerably hardened Malayan opinion against the British Government and its collaborators.

Asian Press too have poured criticisms on the London agreement. A typical comment is that appearing in the leading Bengali paper, AMRITA PATRIKA:

"The present political leaders of Malaya are prepared to remain satisfied with the shadow of independence. If they really wanted independence they would never have agreed to commit their country to provide shelter and facilities for British troops ,whose numbers are left indefinite to suit British convenience."

While these verdicts are being pronounced, the real "patriots" of Malaya are fighting it out in the jungle.

PROFITS INCREASE

British Investments in Malaya's rubber are estimated at £100 million, and in tin about £50 million. In 1955 sale of Malayan rubber to dollar countries yielded 125 million dollars and that of Malayan tin 100 million dols.

Beginning in this issue CARIBBEAN NEWS will highlight events from topical countries with problems akin of those in the West Indies. ... ... Our first is compiled by

ERIC DESLANDES

SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN DEMAND . . .

End Group Areas Act

One day that will be remembered in South Africa for years to come will be October 26th last year. That day marked the beginning of a campaign organised by South African Women in protest against that country's opressive treatment of the coloured population.

The Mothers' Congress stated that in spite of all the difficulties—racial, etc., 2,000 women took part in the demonstration. Dignified and determined, their babies on their backs, these women had come from tens of miles away, some of them on foot. Ninety per cent. of them had never been in Pretoria before. The police tried all sorts of tactics to stop the demonstration. The women were forbidden to hold the planned meeting and procession.

The Government refused to receive the representatives of the women. At the last minute the transport services refused to grant buses. The railways refused to give

continued top of column 2

special cars and the employees of some stations even refused to sell them tickets. Cars were stopped on the roads leading to Pretoria, taxis forbidden to take women and a great number of women were held in police stations.

But they persevered. For several hours there were a steady flow of women making their way to government house. Each woman placed her protest on the threshold there, then went back to the amphitheatre.

Strijdom outraged

They protested again identity cards for the African, the Lae on the Teaching of the Bantus (nearly all native-managed schools have now been closed); the Enrolment of the population, the law on the deportation of Africans to special zones (Group Areas Act); the law on the repression of Communiism, the law on Public Security and other acts of Fascist oppression.

The women were triumphant. Their action received world-wide publicity both in and outside the Union. It was also telebised. Outraged, dictator Strijdom said that it was "scandalous" that the women were allowed to enter the House of Government.

Twelve Hours Work for 2/-

CYPRIOTS of Greek and Turkish origin staged a mammoth demonstration in Nicosia recently to intensify the fight for improving living standards for women in all sections of industry.

Years of imperialist exploitation and neglect inherited by these hard-working people is reflected in the colony's worsening slum conditions, lack of adequate educational facilities and a poor standard of living generally.

Despite the difficult conditions and terror brought about by British troops, over 1,000 delegates crowded into the great conference of women workers organised by the Pacyprian Federation of Labour, an affiliate of the W.F.T.U., as part of the preparations for the World Conference.

Inquiry demand

The demonstration, first of its kind to be organised by the women, brought together delegates from every trade and industry of all ages and of Greek and Turkish origin. They decided at the conference to demand:

"An immediate inquiry into the working conditions of women employed by landowners." It was pointed out that young girls had to work hard for 12 hours a day for 2s. to 3s. per day.

The conference also demand the improvement and application of social security for women workers, and respect for trade union rights.

EIGHT STUDENTS SHOT IN CARACAS

WHILE Latin-American opinion recoiled before the murder of a Venezuelan political refugee in Columbia by an agent of the Venezuelan Security, a sector of the West Indian Press has seen fit to lavish praise on the dictatorship and its chief, Colonel Perez Jimenez.

In one newspaper, the fat colonel is given full-page honours and peers most disconcertingly from a story eulogising the "peace, prosperity and progress of our neighbour."

As if to justify this touching hero-worship, news comes from Caracas of a police attack on demonstrating high school students. Eight were shot, 200 wounded, scores arrested and two high schools shut down.

This follows the arrest on landing of political exiles who had returned home under a so-called amnesty.

We await some comment from our "free and responsible" Press.

Dominica doubts

from page 1

bigger, more developed territories, and Dominica is considered the most undeveloped in the area.

This would be the case in trade, for example, if Dominica had to buy commodities from other islands to promote their industry, at higher prices than paid elsewhere at present.

Another point on which my fears are aroused is the financial position of Dominica, whose cost of living, ever rising, is the highest in the West Indies—in comparison with all-round earnings and costs in other territories; and despite notorious rates and taxes imposed, Dominica has been dependent on grants from Britain to balance her budget annually.

I see a dark future for this island if these grants are stopped, unless a solution is found in all-round integrated economic development is undertaken in the interests of the whole Federation.

Concerning the actual Conference in London, it is my view that more adequate preparation should have been made to secure agreement among the delegates themselves beior going to the Conference.

People's will

Another serious lapse was the absence of public discussion, and the lack of opportunity given for the expression of public opinion.

In our case, when we saw that in consequence of the decision taken in the House that Hon. F. A. Baron, M.L.C., would be Dominica s delegate, and that his going to Grenada to the Windward Island meeting just before his departure was likely to have him leave for England without public hearings on such an important matter, the Trade Union framed a resolution requesting him to explain to the public something to inspire or console them. As an independent member of the Legislative Council we were unaware of the s ope of representation he would show.

As a result of this resolution adopted at our Anniversary meeting, on his return from Grenada a meeting was convened for suggestions and views among Legislative Council members.

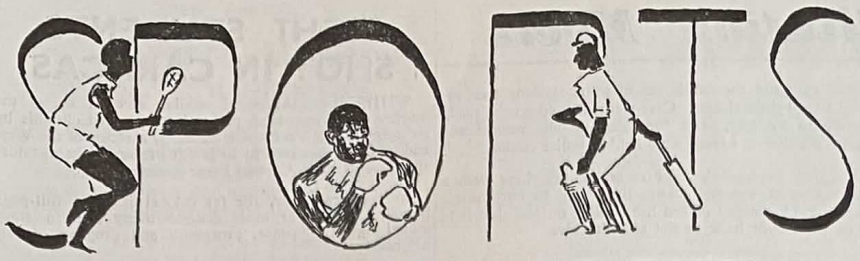
In its limited extent, this meeting was to be desired, but had one been held in a form and at a place where access would be given for expression of public opinion it would have been far more satisfactory to us. For we know that in any community improved conditions depend largely on ' the pleasure of the masses.'

Discussing Federation

Delegates Hon. V. C. Bird (right) represents ANTIGUA and Hon. R. Bradshaw (centre) ST. KITTS

* * *

Photo by Rudy David



WI WINS 3 IN 4 NZ TESTS

Old Stalwarts Bear Strain

TOO dependent on Weeks for runs and the Ramadhin-Valentine combination for wickets, writes our New Zealand correspondent, commenting on the three West Indian victories in the four Tests of their recent tour.

Captained by Denis Atkinson, the W.I. team suffered their sole defeat in the last Test of the series. Playing against them was Trinidad's Simpson Guillen, now resident in New Zealand, wicket keeper in 1952. Guillen has thus become one of the very few to play "both sides," as they say in Trinidad, an international cricketer. Better, or maybe worse, he was instrumental in gaining New Zealand her first Test victory ever with three catches, a brisk 41 and the stumping of Valentine.

Instrumental in gaining the W.I. victories were the Old Stalwarts, John Goddard 1950 skipper, Ramadhin, Valentine and above all Everton Weekes, the only one of the Terrible W's to make this tour. Most of the credit for victory was theirs. True enough Bruce Pairaudeau hit up a useful 68 in the third Test, but that, by far his best performance, is far from what we expect of our opening bat.

Fast Bowlers

Our fast bowlers have not been impressive, although Jamaica's Dewdney's 5 for 21 in the last Test gives a glimmer of hope, skipper Atkinson's 7 for 55 was equally important. Sobers of Barbados and Jamaica's Smith, two young slow bowlers might have been tested a bit harder, but the whole question of the lessons of the tour and prospects for the 1957 U.K. tour will be left for a full dress debate in the next issue.

Notably with his 83 not out in the second Test, player-manager Goddard further established himself as one of the really excellent bats if not the greatest No. 7 in our cricket history. In that Test too, Valentine's 5 for 32 showed what a great slow bowler can elicit from the right wicket, a lesson for Sobers and Smith. Ramadhin's 9 for 81 in the first Test was a promise of great things to come and by the end of the series he had secured two honours. He joined Valentine to become the second W.I. bowler to capture 100 wickets in Test cricket. He is now the second W.I. to get over 400 wickets in first class cricket; Constantine still leads with 424.

As for Everton Weekes, his performance stands in a class by itself, as revealed by our correspondent's rhapsody in the picure story accompanying.

Test Scores

1st TEST: N.Z. 74 (Ramadhin 6 for 23), and 208 (Beck 66, Smith 3 for 42, Ramadhin 3 for 58); W.I. 353 (Weekes 123). W.I. won by an innings and 71 runs.

2nd TEST: W.I. 386 (Weekes 103, Atkinson 85, Goddard 83 not out); N.Z. 158 (Ramadhin 5 for 46) and 164 (Valentine 5 for 32, Smith 4 for 74). W.I. won by an innings and 64 runs.

3rd TEST: W.I. 404 (Weekes 156, Pairaudeau 68) and 14 for 1; N.Z. 208 (Beck 55) and 208 (Atkinson 5 for 66). W.I. won by 9 wickets.

4th TEST: N.Z. 255 (Reid 84, Dewdney 5 for 21) and 157 for 9 dec. (Atkinson 7 for 53); W.I. 145 (Furlonge 64, Cave 4 for 22) and 77 (Weekes 31, Cave 4 for 21). N.Z. won by 190 runs.

Nearly all Weekes — consistent

WITH a century in each of his first three Test innings Weekes carried the W.I. batting on his shoulders. His average for the tests is over 83. He was very consistent, and with scores of 156, 148, 123, 119 not out, 103, and 43, just missed equalling Bradman's feat of 6 centuries in a row in first class cricket.

It was 90 per cent. Weekes in the batting department, writes our correspondent, and "we loved watching him. He has used the full range of his pugnacious strokes and been the despair of fieldsmen. His stroke-making has been marked by freedom and power without abandon."

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U.K. ATHLETES SWEEP BOARD IN TRINIDAD GAMES

A STRONG six-man team of U.K. athletes including Trinidad-born C. Gibbs, broke four local records while W.I. contestants equalled two at the Southern Games in Trinidad last February. From B.G., Jamaica, and the Windward Islands came representatives, most outstanding of whom was Grenada's hurdler, high jumper and long jumper—William Gittens.

B. Hewson broke the local 800 metres record clocking a commendable 1 min. 51.4 sec., 2.2 sec. outside the Olympic figure. P. Driver set a new record of 15 min. 13.6 sec. in the 5,000 metres. Elliott's discus throw of 123 ft. 8 in. and his vault of 12 ft. ½ in. are the two other new figures at which W.I. athletes must aim.

In the sprints, our pet distances, E. Turton clocked 10.6 for the 100 metres, W. Jackson 21.8 in the 200, and Constable Bates 47.7 in the 400. No records were set and if we exclude R. Bravo a young sprinter who turned in 10.7 over 100 metres for Juniors, there is no runner in view to take the place that Agostini has whipped from Bailey, McKinley and Lloyd La Beach. Maybe we need a bigger Jamaican contingent to be able to judge prospects.

High Jump

In the 110 metres hurdles B.G.'s L. Taitt equalled the Trinidad record of 15.3 sec. though in the 400 metres Gittens and Benjamin tieing for first place with a time of 55.9sec. were still well outside the record. Incidentally J. Crump, veteran U.K. manager has pointed out in an interview with the local Press that there is a good deal of talent but equal need of coaching.

With a leap of 6 ft. 5 in. W. Gittens retained his high jump record for the Southern Games. L. Scipio of Trinidad cleared 6 ft. 2 in. and W. St. John, also of Granada, 6 ft. Gittens and Scipio gained high praise from H. Abrahams, AAA secretary in Britain, who figures that with a more polished style Gittens could clear 7ft. While not committing ourselves that far—the three year old world record is 6 ft. 11¼ in.—undoubtedly, with proper coaching he still has some more way up to go. In this light it is gratifying to record that Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd. is obtaining a coach—the next few years should show some interesting results.

– BUT TOURING XI MAY NOT

SWANTON'S XI, a strong team of Test and county cricketers from England are touring Barbados and Trinidad. Weekes, Ramadhin, Smith, and Sobers are flying from N.Z. to be in the W.I. team against the tourists, whose recent defeat at the hands of young Barbados does not presage well for this encounter. Tyson, Warr, Goonesena, and Marlar, some of the best bowlers in English cricket should test our batsmen to the full, while Cowdrey, Graveney, and young Stewart of Surrey may extend our bowlers, providing useful eye-openers for the W.I. possibles to tour the U.K. next year. Scores so far:

Barbados Schools XI, 183 for 4 dec.; Swanton's XI 191-5. 2nd game, Barbados XI, 522 for 8 dec. (Hunte 151, Marshall 100, E. Atkinson 77, Tyson 4 for 101, Goonesena 3 for 145); Swanton's XI 262 (Goonesena 62, Cowdrey 50) and 248. Barbados won by an innings and 12 runs.

SPORT FLASHES

MIKE AGOSTINI (Trinidad) clipped one-tenth second off the world 220 yard sprint record with a time of 20.1 seconds, in California, U.S.A.

J. LANDY (Australia) became the only man to get inside 4 minutes for the mile three times, when he clocked 3 min. 58.6 sec. in his comeback attempt..

J. KHALID, 13 year old Pakistan bowler became the youngest player in first class cricket when he played against the M.C.C.

D. STEPHENS, Melbourne's "flying" milkman, set a world 6 mile record of 27 min. 54 sec., beating Zatopek's 27:59.2.

JOHNNY SAXTON regained the world welterweight boxing title with a points verdict over champion Carmen Basilio.

F. NITIKIN (U.S.S.R.) lifted 266¾ lb. for a new world lightweight press record.

C. VINCI (U.S.A.) set a new bantamweight clean and jerk world record with a lift of 289 lb.

ALAIN MIMOUN, Algerian distance runner, won the International Cross Country race at Belfast, helping France to win the team championship.

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